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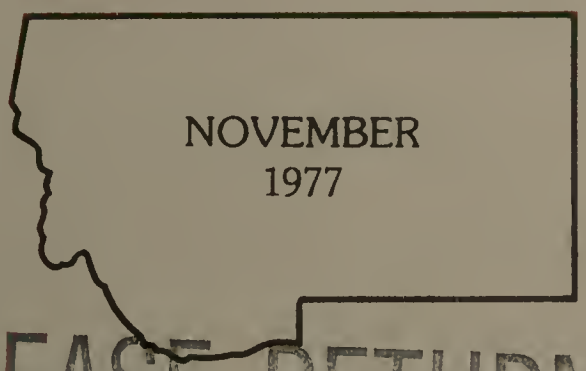

NOVEMBER
1977

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P.O. BOX 1728
Helena, Montana
59601

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

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in cooperation with the
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Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)
1975 - 1977

HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER 1977

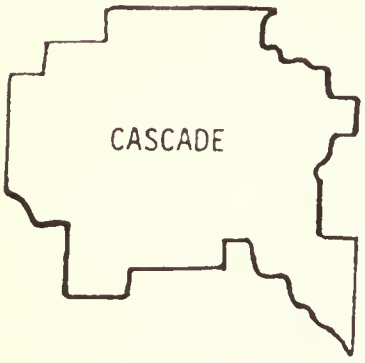
In October, while many economists awaited the seasonal downturn in Montana's economy, most measures of economic conditions strongly suggest that the advancements realized during the summer might be sustained throughout the winter months. Indicative of this improving trend was the continued contraction of Statewide unemployment. From September to October the jobless rolls decreased 600 individuals, sending the unemployment rate to 5.0%. This is well below the 6.2% rate posted in October a year ago. At the same time movement on the employment side was encouraging. In the past month the only significant decreases were noted in agriculture - hardly unexpected with the close of the harvest season.

Signs from manufacturing were equally favorable. The commencement of sugar beet processing in eastern Montana and the resumption of activity in the primary metals industry did much to enhance the conditions in the industrial sector. Average weekly hours in manufacturing edged upward to 42.7 hours this month, the highest level recorded in the past ten years. In addition, the layoff, quit, accession, and new hire rates all displayed positive economic movement. It should be noted, however, that uncertainty is being nurtured in some local economies by the recent announcement of plans for layoffs in the Butte-Anaconda Labor Market Area.

Further indication of the strength of the economy was the unseasonal stability in building construction. Despite the reports of work slowdowns in many areas of the state, the overall level of activity has remained unchanged during the past six months. Indeed, there has been some general decline in highway construction which has affected total employment in the industry. However, the building trades should enjoy a good winter season, barring extremely harsh weather conditions.

On the whole Montana appeared to be on solid economic ground during the month of October. Although some weaknesses exist (e.g. the restlessness in the copper industry), most sectors of the economy are entering the winter months on a positive note. Some seasonal fluctuation in the unemployment rate is to be expected (initial claims for unemployment insurance were up in November), but the general outlook for the coming months is good.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

With 33,800 persons in the Great Falls labor pool in October, no change from September's figure was registered. The number of persons employed, however, decreased by 100, yielding an increase in the rate of unemployment. That figure rose from 5.7% last month to 5.8% in October. Agricultural employment was 200 less than September's level, marking the second month of decline since the peak recorded in August. Such a trend is normal at this time of year, as harvesting activity subsides. Non-farm wage and salary employment declined by 300 persons from September, to a current level of 28,800. As might be expected, the industrial sectors which accounted for the employment drop were trade, service, and federal government, each of which is affected by seasonality. Comparison of the SMSA employment figures for October 1976 with those for October, 1977 reveals a more positive long term picture of the area workforce. During this one year period the number of employed persons has increased by 1,600, while the number of those unemployed decreased by 200, reducing the unemployment rate from 6.7% to 5.8% over the past twelve months.

Most of the unemployment claims activity reported by the Great Falls local Job Service office arose from a labor dispute involving workers on missile sites in the area. However, the dispute was settled recently, and it is likely that claims from outside-construction workers will become the new source of most activity as the winter weather becomes more severe.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economic status of the Great Falls SMSA has shown little significant change during the past month. Twenty-six new business firms were established in Cascade County during October, as compared with thirty-six in September. On a year-to-date basis, however, new business formations remain far ahead of last year's pace, with 435 new firms in operation. During the same period last year, only 248 businesses had been started.

Building permits, another indicator of economic activity, totalled 102 for the month of October. This number is essentially normal for the time of year, but as the weather worsens outdoor construction activity should slacken, and it is likely that fewer building projects will be started. However, two major projects currently underway are helping keep the construction sector active in spite of the approaching winter. One Construction of a four-lane bridge, sewer line crossing, and pump station on the Sun River, is well underway with completion expected by the summer of 1978. The project was begun last summer and has an estimated total cost in the neighborhood of $4 million. The second major undertaking is the improvement of facilities at the Great Falls International Airport. Work was started during the past month, and when complete, the total cost is expected to be more than $1 million.

As reported by the Great Falls local office, demand for workers in most industrial sectors has been generally steady. In addition, more people should find work during the holidays, as many firms enjoy a Christmas season business surge.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of employed persons fell 300 from last month, which brought the area's employment to 50,100 individuals. This represents an annual increase of 5.6% over last year - 2,700 workers. This month's drop in employment was largely attributed to the loss of 300 workers in agriculture. In fact, the major industrial groups experienced no change in employment from September. The employment level in the major industrial sectors is still about 3,000 ahead of year ago figures, with the construction, trade, service and government divisions showing significant gains.

The unemployment situation did not change from September, with 2,000 persons out of work. The unemployment rate remained at 3.9%. In October one year ago, 2,300 workers were unemployed, and the ratio of unemployed to the labor force was 4.7%.

In terms of the labor market, the Billings economy is experiencing what could probably be described as its best period of the 1970's. Employment continues to grow at a healthy rate - nearly 3,000 workers from 1976 levels. And at the same time, the jobless rolls have declined to the point where the unemployment rate is now approaching what most economists consider a "full employment" level. The problem remains that with the winter season just around the corner, the rate is apt to jump upward, with construction and other outdoor related workers victims of winter joblessness.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The flourishing expansion of new shopping complexes shows no sign of letting up in the Billings SMSA. It was announced that bids will soon be let for construction of a new shopping center in the Billings heights area. The 80,000 square feet complex is expected to be completed by next July. A chain supermarket already has plans of leasing space in the facility, as well as a major drug store and a western wear concern. The grocery store will utilize 30,000 square feet of the center for its new store. Just across the street from this complex another shopping center is expanding to make room for a new discount department store, and a new bank. Also, existing businesses in the center are undergoing a general remodeling program (as noted in last months issue).

In the Billings west end, construction is underway on a new chain hardware store, a professional building, a new mini-mall and a second Billings Job Service office. Other new or under construction enterprises include, the completion of the downtown parking garage, a pizza parlor, a motel, and two restaurants.

There seems to be no sign of any slackening in new business activity in the Billings area. A continuing in-migration of new families is providing the stimulus for continued economic growth.

ANACONDA - BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

October's labor force moved downward from last month to 34,700 persons. Those holding jobs totaled 32,600, a seasonal drop of 1,600 from September's level. Nevertheless this is still an increase from the 31,800 individuals employed in the six-county area in October of last year, representing an annual growth rate of 2.5%. At 6%, the unemployment rate remained unchanged from the previous month, with 2,100 individuals on the jobless rolls. This compares with 6.8% for August and 8.4% for October 1976. The unemployment trends for the individual counties showed little deviation from previous months. Beaverhead, Madison and Powell Counties experienced rates under 4.5%, whereas Deer Lodge, Granite and Silver Bow each posted rates above 5.5%. Silver Bow County had the highest rate of unemployment - 7.1%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economic situation in the Butte area is plagued by the continuing uncertainty over the future of the area's important copper industry. Prices being received by producers remains low (under 61¢/pound), because of the excess supply of copper on the world market. With production costs increasing for the extraction of the metal in the domestic market, many industry analysts fear further labor cutbacks. If such events occur, other derivative industries in the Butte and Anaconda communities would also be adversely affected.

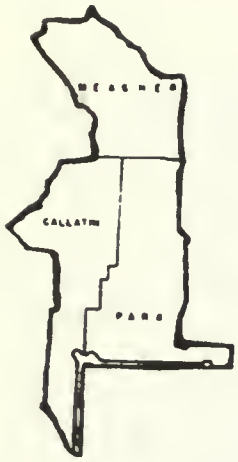
Despite this situation, Butte "main street" merchants have generally shown optimism concerning prospects of a good holiday season. In fact, area retailers have noted good sales during the past month. In addition, four new retail stores opened in the city's main shopping center. The complex has undergone a general remodeling program and by next spring, a total of 21 new firms are expected to occupy space.

The Butte Job Service office reported that the majority of new openings have been in the service and hospital related fields.

In Granite County, construction work began on a new senior citizens center in Phillipsburg. Also, the local hospital has announced plans for remodeling and expanding its present facility. These two projects will likely provide an added stimulus to the area's construction industry. Some additional layoffs have been noted in Phillipsburg, as a local mill cut back its workshifts from 3 to 1 until the completion of repairs at the mill.

The primary activities in the agriculture industry have centered on general repairs and livestock feeding. Demand for hired help is generally minimal, at this time of the year.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Bozeman LMA this month showed another decrease from its peak of 26,400 last August. The force now stands at 25,200, 600 less than last month's figure. In addition, total employment declined again, while the number of unemployed persons increased from September's level. At 24,200, the number of employed persons registered a drop of 700, while the increase in the ranks of the jobless caused the unemployment rate to move from 3.4% in September to a current rate of 3.8%. On a more positive note, the point should be stressed that although the unemployment rate increased slightly, it is still far below the 5.5% recorded for October 1976.

As is some other areas of the state, unemployment claims increased recently due to a number of construction layoffs resulting from cold weather and heavy snow in the area. Further claims are also expected due to the layoff of the remainder of seasonal park service employees at Yellowstone.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Bozeman LMA economic situation has not shown any substantial changes during the past month. Indeed, most indications suggest that normal conditions exist in most industrial sectors for this time of year.

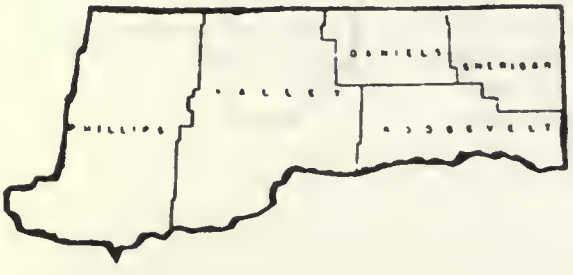
The number of new businesses established in the three county LMA during October totalled 31. This indicator of the economic atmosphere is virtually the same as last month's figure of 30 and is very close to the 36 new firms registered during the same month one year ago.

The building permits issued during October amounted to 38, which doesn't compare well with last month's total of 59. However, this month's number of building permits is perfectly consistent with the 38 which were issued last October. Among the more prominent construction projects to be undertaken in Bozeman are a new manufacturing plant with a cost of $615,000; the enlargement of a local bank, with cost estimates of about $610,000; and a $100,000 multiple dwelling unit.

Business in the trade and service sectors should increase during the holiday season, with Christmas shopping as well as the opening of the ski resorts in the vicinity. It is expected that added personnel will be needed in some areas to handle the increased business volume.

Most of the activity in the agricultural sector has consisted of general fall field work and preparation for the winter.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

October statistics for the Glasgow LMA civilian labor force were on the decline as the labor pool dropped by 1,400 for the month. Employment decreased 1,300 to 16,500 and the balance of the reduction came in the unemployment total. This downward movement in all categories effected only a slight decrease in the rate of unemployment, which now stands at 4.2%, compared with 4.3% in September and 5.0% in October a year ago.

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

The lowest rate in the labor market area was posted in both Daniels and Sheridan Counties with 1.6%. (The only lower rate in the entire state was recorded in Petroleum County.) The labor market area's highest rate came in Valley County at 6.9%.

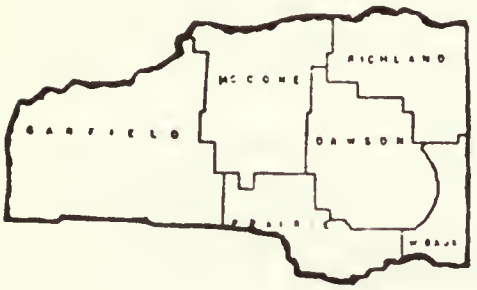
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Building construction continues to be a main support of the Glasgow area economy. In Glasgow, projects underway include a bank, a retirement home, a hospital, a bentonite plant, business offices, and several new homes. In Poplar work centers on additions to schools, a new clinic, and a tribal museum. Employment is steady and, although there are some new hires, they are usually of a temporary nature and for unskilled workers.

Oil field employment has shown gains lately, particularly in Sheridan County. Nevertheless, some local unemployment persists as several working crews are commuting from out of state.

In the retail sector sales have been slightly below last year's totals yet in some areas additional clerks for the busy holiday season are being hired. Meanwhile in agriculture, activity has slowed considerably with the completion of harvesting. General repair work and supplemental winter feeding of cattle are the main tasks for area farmers and ranchers.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Statistics on employment and unemployment in the six-county Glendive LMA compare very favorably with most of the other areas of the state this month. In many areas, the civilian labor force and total employment are exhibiting seasonal declines. This situation also holds true for Glendive; however, whereas some other locations are also experiencing increases in unemployment this month, the Glendive LMA has enjoyed a decline in both the number of unemployed persons and the overall unemployment rate. That rate has dropped for the third consecutive month and now stands at 2.1%. During October 1976, it was 2.9%.

Local Job Service office reports from Glendive and Sidney suggest that unemployment claims activity is standard for this time of year. Most of the claims filed are expected to be due to seasonal layoffs in the various industrial sectors.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

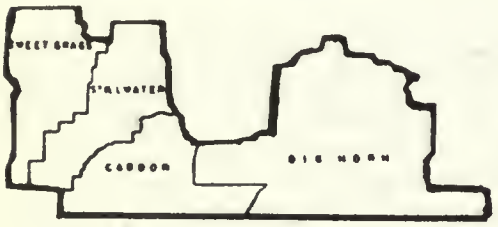
Economic activity continues to be influenced by the sugar beet industry in this region. Although harvesting of the crops is completed, processing remains a source of much work effort in the Sidney area, with beets being transported in from both Glendive and Fairview.

Wholesale and retail businesses are reported to have been maintaining a good level of trade in recent weeks, and volume should only improve as the holidays approach. The number of new business firms established during October presents another positive indication of economic health in the LMA. Fifteen establishments opened this month, compared with twelve new firms in September.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

Work in the construction sector continues as weather permits. Among the projects started recently are a new insurance building, bottling plant, and gas processing plant in the vicinity of Sidney. On the other hand, much of the work being done around Glendive consists of completion of existing projects.

HARDIN - RED LODGE LMA



The civilian labor pool slipped to 12,000 persons in October, a drop of 1,100 from the previous month for the four-county labor market area. Of these, 11,500 were employed in October, which represents a 8.5% increase from the same month a year ago, when employment totaled 10,600.

The jobless rolls fell 100 from September to 500 persons, or 4.6% of the civilian labor force. In October 1976, 600 persons were without work, a 5.2% unemployment rate. The individual counties ranged from a low of 3% in Sweet Grass County to an unemployment high of 5.7% in Big Horn County.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 5 new business firms entered the Hardin-Red Lodge labor market area in October, down slightly from 7 firms recorded for October last year. The yearly total, however, is still up nearly 16% from 1976 levels - 88 new businesses in 1977.

The other major indicator for this area remained negative, as it has for nearly all of Montana. New car registrations totaled 346 for the first 10 months of this year, off 27% from the same period a year ago. October's figures revealed no improvement in this trend - 24 new car registrations.

The winter months are generally a slow time of the year in the rural oriented counties in this labor area. Primary activities in agriculture are general maintenance and livestock feeding.

A ski resort near Red Lodge expanded its operations during the past summer, adding a new chair lift. The resort provides a definite business lift to the Red Lodge community during the winter months, expecially the restaurants, lodging places and other service enterprises.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In October, the Havre labor area boasted one of the lowest unemployments rates in the state - 3.4%. This compares with 3.8% for September and 5.4% for October a year ago. The number of jobless remained the same as last month with a total of 500 persons for the three-county area. Liberty County posted the lowest unemployment ratio of the three areas, the rates for Hill and Blaine Counties were 3.4% and 4%, respectively.

HAVRE LMA (Cont.)

A total of 13,000 held jobs in October in the three counties, up 11.1% from the 11,700 for October 1976.

At this time, the economy appears to be healthy in the Havre area, with an expanding labor force and a complementing increase in employment. The Havre area has shown definite improvement from the employment situation of a year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

After over one year of planning, the foundation forms were poured for a new shopping center in Havre. The complex is being constructed on the west end of the city on a 25 acre site. The initial structure will contain space for 41 business enterprises, including three department stores and a theater. The expected cost of the project will likely hit $8 million. The center will utilize about 223,000 square feet of shopping space. By next spring, work is scheduled to begin on a second building at the center, consisting of a supermarket and six smaller service firms. The developers feel that after three years of operation, gross sales will hit $23 million, and account for a 35-50 percent increase in the city's total retail sales. When in operation, the complex is expected to provide jobs for about 600 people. The target grand opening has been slated for November 1978.

Work began in October on a new $387,000 criminal justice building at Rocky Boys Reservation. A Havre construction firm has the contract on the new facility, and the anticipated completion date was set for October 1978.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Helena LMA posted a decline of 700 during October. The total number of people in the force now totals 26,500. This decrease was accompanied by declines in both the number of employed and unemployed persons as well. The net result of these shifts was a lower rate of unemployment in October than in the previous month, and this course of events made the Helena LMA one of the few areas in the state which enjoyed such conditions. The unemployment rate was lowered by .3%; from 4.8% in September to 4.5% for the month of October.

Unemployment insurance claims showed no abnormal levels of activity until recent weeks when snow and cold weather curtailed some activity in the construction sector, increasing the associated claims. Local office reports on the characteristics of claimants bears this out, with the vast majority of claims being filed by workers in the structural professions.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The area economy has been experiencing a slowdown lately; however, this is largely attributable to normal seasonal trends. As previously suggested, the construction industry appears to be exhibiting the greatest measure of activity reduction, but reports indicate that hiring in most other sectors is beginning to slow as well. The opening of some new restaurants in the area has made the service sector one exception to the slowing trend in business hiring. Demand for food service workers continues strong. Furthermore, temporary Christmas season hiring in the retail and service industries should provide some stimulus to activity levels.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

As an indication of local economic conditions, new business formations in the LMA are generally consistent with other present trends. Twenty-four new firms were established during October, which is four less than September's figure. A more positive aspect of this indicator, however, is the fact that it is better than the figure of nineteen recorded in October 1976. In addition, with 314 new businesses having been formed since January this year, an increase of 65% has taken place over the number registered for the comparable period in 1976.

Activity in the agricultural sector may begin to show some increases in coming weeks. Farm and ranch jobs are expected to be on the increase, with winter feeding beginning to get underway.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force stood at 33,100 individuals in October, which equaled the figures for the same month a year ago. Although the labor pool did not notice any real growth from 1976, the composition did improve, in that the number of workers increased by 500 to 30,500. Consequently, the jobless rolls also declined 500, bringing the total down to 2,600 persons. In comparison with last month, the Kalispell area's employment worsened, with employment falling by 1,100 and unemployment rising 200. The unemployment ratio reached 7.8% in October, compared with 7% in September and 9.3% in October a year ago.

Among individual counties, Lincoln County experienced the highest rate of joblessness, 9.9%, followed by a 7.8% rate for Flathead County and 6% in Lake County.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

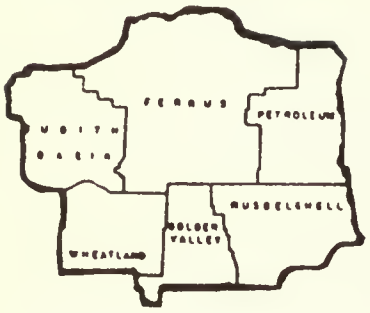
With the exception of the retail sector, the economic climate is cooling off in Kalispell. Even among retailers, additional holiday hiring has been minimal. The outdoor related industries noted a significant increase in layoffs by late November, as winter weather conditions forced shutdown of many area projects. Those primarily affected include loggers, construction workers, national park employees, forest service workers, and agricultural help. These groups amount to a major percentage of Kalispell's work force. This situation will undoubtedly drive up the area's December unemployment rate.

Two major projects are expected to give the construction sector a boost, including a $1.2 million storm drain-sewer project and a new city hall both in Kalispell.

The advent of the Christmas season will bring some benefit to the area, as a major ski resort near Whitefish will provide some jobs and money flow to the area, with lodging places, ski shops, gasoline stations and service oriented enterprises receiving the major business. Also, the Christmas tree harvest is expected to spruce up the local economy. This area has become noted as one of the largest Christmas tree producers in the United States.

The Libby area will receive an economic lift, as a $200 million congressionally approved project of Libby Dam is expected to soon get underway. Four additional generator turbines are going to be added to the Dam, as well as a 100 foot regulation dam located about 10 miles downstream. By early 1979, a workforce near 200 is expected to be working on the project.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

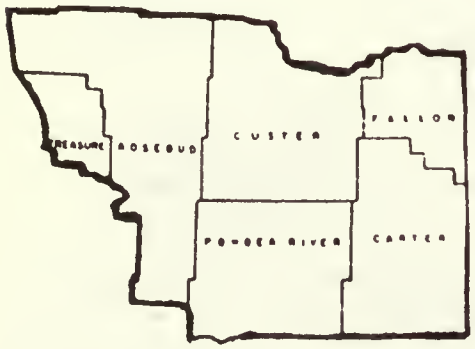
Employment and unemployment for the month of October showed no improvement over last month's figures. Indeed, declines were registered in the civilian labor force and the number of persons employed, while the number of those who were unemployed increased, as did the rate of unemployment in the labor area. Those included in the labor force amounted to 11,200, compared with 11,600 in September. As the number of employed persons decreased by 500, the ranks of the unemployed increased by 100, yielding an area unemployment rate of 3.8% this month. Although this represents a .8% increase over September, it nevertheless remains below the rate of unemployment recorded during October 1976. It should also be noted that employment in the Lewistown area was adversely affected by a labor dispute involving workers on the missile site improvement project there. The dispute has since been resolved, and workers are back on the job at the present time.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The number of workers directly and indirectly related to the missile site improvement project is substantial enough to be an influential factor in the economic well-being of the Lewistown LMA. The settlement of the labor dispute should be a welcome turn of events for the economy of the area, especially with the approach of the holiday season.

The number of new businesses has been a consistently positive economic indicator this year. With 94 new firms established to date, the six-county labor area remains well ahead of the pace set last year during the comparable ten month period.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Not unlike the other labor market areas in the state, Miles City witnessed a decrease in the individuals in the civilian labor force this month. While the total of unemployed persons remained virtually unchanged, employment fell by 300 (to 15,100). This accounts for the similar drop in the size of the civilian labor pool, as well as the slight escalation in the rate of unemployment - now at 3.4%. With the exception of Rosebud County, statistics from this labor market are considerably more favorable than the state as a whole. Rosebud County, on the other hand, has had its particular problems with the uncertainty over energy development in the Colstrip area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economy in the Miles City area is beginning to reflect the limitations placed on it by winter weather conditions. Already outdoor-related activities have been cut to a minimum, with road construction at a virtual standstill. Agriculture, too, has entered its more lethargic period. Activity there is confined to general maintenance and supplemental feeding of livestock. On the whole reports from the Miles City labor market area describe an economy on a seasonal downturn. All retail activity is stable and job placements in most sectors should be on the decline. At present there is no shortage of qualified workers in the area.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

As in most other areas of the state, the Missoula LMA civilian labor force posted a decline during the month of October. The drop of 600 from September's figure left the total number of persons in the labor pool at 47,700. Of that number, 44,700 were employed during the month, and 300 were unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 6.2% - unchanged from last month. Perhaps of greater significance is the fact that the current rate of unemployment has shown substantial improvement since October 1976, with a decline of 1.7%.

The numbers as well as sources of unemployment insurance claims this month continue to be influenced by the season. Increased layoffs are taking place in road construction, lumber and wood products, and the forest service, largely due to adverse weather conditions in the area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The city of Missoula was involved in a labor dispute with some of its employees recently, when more than thirty workers walked off their jobs demanding wage increases. Fortunately, a settlement was reached after two weeks, and the employees are now back to work.

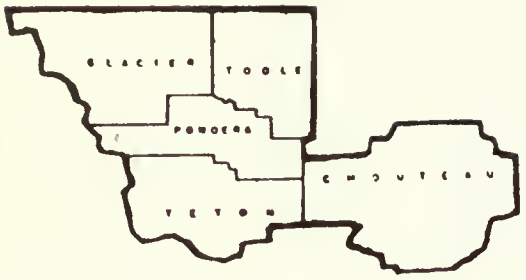
In spite of worsening weather conditions some major construction projects are scheduled to begin in the area in the near future. As reported last month, construction of a new airport terminal in Missoula should begin soon. A Great Falls construction firm was awarded the contract for $2.23 million. In addition a Spokane firm was awarded a $1.5 million contract to construct an overpass, beginning this fall. Other projects scheduled to start include two warehouses valued at $450,000, an addition to the Missoula Community Hospital costing $650,000, and the construction of an annex to the city hall at a value of $700,000. In general, construction has remained a very strong force in the Missoula LMA economy; not only this month, but over the past year. This is evidenced by the major projects previously described as well as the total number of building permits issued during October. At 140, that number is nine more than last month's figure and twice the number issued in October last year - a very positive indication of economic health.

New business formation during October was essentially at the same level as in October 1976. Fifty-three new firms began operation this month compared with fifty-two last year during the same month. While three of the counties in the LMA registered fewer new businesses than they did one year ago, Missoula County had fourteen more new firms.

In the agricultural sector, harvesting has been completed. This effectively curtails most activity other than winter preparations.

Overall, economic and employment conditions in the Missoula labor area are good for this time of year.

SHELBY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Shelby labor area reflects a characteristically seasonal trend with 1,500 individuals dropping out of the labor force last month, bringing the total to 17,800 for October. That figure still is 1,400 more than October a year ago, an 8.5% increase. Also, presently employed individuals decreased 1,500 for an October total of 16,900. Thus, while the number of unemployed persons remained at the same level as the previous month, the unemployment rate jumped to 5.0% in October from the 4.5% in September. This compares with the 5.0% rate registered in October of a year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Current economic conditions in the area have remained relatively stable for this time of year. New business formations tailed off in October, but with a year to date total of 158, the Shelby LMA remains ahead of the 129 total registered in the first ten months of 1976.

Construction continues as the main activity, especially in the Cut Bank area. There, new home construction is at an all time high and more building starts are being planned for the future. Also of interest is the opening of a Job Service branch office in Browning which will provide improved service to area job seekers and employers.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

October 1977

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	240	109	2,210
CETA-CEP	78	37	244
CETA-INST.	129	39	621
CETA-OJT	37	35	201
JOB CORPS	58	23	367
PSE TITLE II	65	22	384
PSE TITLE VI	104	65	745
PSE TITLE VI "A"	122	30	567

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	Oct. 1977	*Percent Change From:* Sept. 1977	Oct. 1977
All Items	184.5	.3%	6.5%

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

October 1977

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	8.9%
Female	13.6%
Youth	7.9%
Over 45	27.1%

1/ *The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.*

Table I

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	*9.4*	*9.0*	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	*10.2*	*9.1*	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	*9.2*	*9.1*	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	*8.7*	*8.9*	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	*7.3*	*8.3*	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	*8.4*	*9.1*	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	*7.4*	*8.7*	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	*6.6*	*8.2*	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	*6.6*	*8.1*	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	*7.3*	*7.8*	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	*8.0*	*7.8*	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	*9.1*	*7.8*	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	*8.1*	*8.5*	.1
1976								
January	316.8	284.0	263.1	20.9	32.8	*10.4*	*8.8*	*
February	317.8	287.0	263.9	23.1	30.8	*9.7*	*8.7*	*
March	325.7	295.1	267.0	28.1	30.6	*9.4*	*8.1*	*
April	333.4	307.8	272.8	35.0	25.6	*7.7*	*7.4*	*
May	336.4	314.0	277.7	36.3	22.4	*6.6*	*6.7*	*
June	353.9	325.2	283.5	41.7	28.7	*8.1*	*8.0*	.1
July	359.4	333.0	288.1	44.9	26.4	*7.3*	*7.8*	.1
August	361.2	336.0	287.6	48.4	25.2	*7.0*	*7.6*	.1
September	346.8	325.2	287.2	38.0	21.6	*6.2*	*7.4*	.1
October	337.2	316.3	283.8	32.5	20.9	*6.2*	*7.2*	.1
November	334.0	310.8	282.6	28.2	23.2	*7.0*	*7.4*	.1
December	329.6	305.0	280.6	24.4	24.6	*7.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	*7.7*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	330.9	299.0	276.4	22.6	31.9	*9.7*	*8.3*	.1
February	332.2	302.9	278.1	24.8	29.4	*8.8*	*8.5*	.1
March	338.2	311.2	281.3	29.9	27.0	*8.0*	*7.9*	.1
April	345.7	322.0	285.0	37.0	23.7	*6.9*	*6.9*	.1
May	349.3	329.4	291.2	38.2	19.9	*5.7*	*6.4*	.1
June	365.7	342.9	299.4	43.5	22.8	*6.2*	*7.5*	.2
July	376.1	352.3	305.8	46.5	23.8	*6.3*	*7.0*	3.3
August	377.8	358.4	308.6	49.8	19.4	*5.1*	*6.8*	.2
September	361.4	343.1	304.3	38.8	18.3	*5.1*	*6.6*	.1
October	355.6	337.9	304.9	33.0	17.7	*5.0*	*6.3*	.5
November	*350.6*	*331.7*	*303.3*	*28.4*	*18.9*	*5.4*		.1
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	*8.3*	*9.4*	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	*9.7*	*10.3*	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	*8.7*	*9.2*	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	*8.3*	*8.7*	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*7.3*	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	*8.4*	*8.4*	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	*8.1*	*7.4*	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	*7.4*	*6.6*	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*6.6*	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	*8.1*	*7.3*	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	*7.9*	*8.0*	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	*8.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	*8.2*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	30.6	27.5	26.7	.8	3.1	*10.2*	*10.4*	*
February	30.7	27.8	26.9	.9	2.9	*9.5*	*9.7*	*
March	31.3	28.3	27.2	1.1	3.0	*9.6*	*9.4*	*
April	31.5	29.0	27.6	1.4	2.5	*8.0*	*7.7*	*
May	31.9	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.3	*7.2*	*6.6*	*
June	33.7	30.5	28.9	1.6	3.2	*9.5*	*8.1*	*
July	33.4	30.6	28.8	1.8	2.8	*8.5*	*7.3*	*
August	33.0	30.4	28.5	1.9	2.6	*7.9*	*7.0*	*
September	32.3	30.2	28.7	1.5	2.1	*6.6*	*6.2*	*
October	32.4	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.2	*6.7*	*6.2*	*
November	32.1	29.9	28.8	1.1	2.2	*7.0*	*7.0*	*
December	32.2	30.0	29.0	1.0	2.2	*6.8*	*7.5*	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	*8.1*	*7.7*	*
1977								
January	32.2	29.2	28.3	.9	3.0	*9.2*	*9.7*	*
February	31.8	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.5	*7.8*	*8.8*	*
March	32.4	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.4	*7.3*	*8.0*	*
April	32.5	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.0	*6.2*	*6.9*	*
May	32.9	31.0	29.5	1.5	1.9	*5.6*	*5.7*	*
June	34.2	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.2	*6.4*	*6.2*	*
July	34.2	32.0	30.2	1.8	2.2	*6.5*	*6.3*	.8
August	33.9	32.0	30.0	2.0	1.9	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
September	33.8	31.9	30.4	1.5	1.9	*5.7*	*5.1*	*
October	33.8	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.0	*5.8*	*5.0*	.4
November	*32.8*	*31.0*	*29.9*	*1.1*	*1.8*	*5.5*	*5.4*	*
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	7.6	9.4	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	8.0	10.2	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	7.9	9.2	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	7.3	8.7	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	5.6	7.2	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.4	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	6.5	7.4	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	6.2	6.6	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	5.9	6.6	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	5.8	7.3	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	5.8	8.0	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	6.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	45.2	41.5	40.5	1.0	3.7	8.2	10.4	*
February	45.2	42.0	40.9	1.1	3.2	7.2	9.7	*
March	46.1	42.7	41.4	1.3	3.4	7.4	9.4	*
April	47.1	44.3	42.7	1.6	2.8	6.0	7.7	*
May	48.2	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.3	4.8	6.6	*
June	49.4	46.0	44.1	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.1	*
July	49.5	46.4	44.3	2.1	3.1	6.3	7.3	*
August	49.0	46.2	44.0	2.2	2.8	5.8	7.0	*
September	48.9	46.5	44.8	1.7	2.4	4.9	6.2	*
October	49.7	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.2	*
November	50.3	47.8	46.5	1.3	2.5	4.9	7.0	*
December	50.3	47.5	46.4	1.1	2.8	5.6	7.5	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	50.0	46.2	45.2	1.0	3.8	7.6	9.7	*
February	50.2	46.8	45.7	1.1	3.4	6.7	8.8	*
March	50.5	47.5	46.1	1.4	3.0	6.0	8.0	*
April	50.4	47.8	46.1	1.7	2.6	5.1	6.9	*
May	50.4	48.1	46.3	1.8	2.3	4.5	5.7	*
June	51.9	49.5	47.5	2.0	2.4	4.6	6.2	*
July	52.3	49.7	47.6	2.1	2.6	5.0	6.3	.1
August	51.6	49.6	47.3	2.3	2.0	3.9	5.1	.1
September	52.4	50.4	48.6	1.8	2.0	3.9	5.1	.1
October	52.1	50.1	48.6	1.5	2.0	3.9	5.0	.1
November	52.7	50.6	49.3	1.3	2.1	4.1	5.4	*
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	355.6	361.4	337.2	-5.8	18.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	337.9	343.1	316.3	-5.2	21.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	33.0	38.8	32.5	-5.8	.5
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	17.7	18.3	20.9	-.6	-3.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.0*	*5.1*	*6.2*	*-.1*	*-1.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.0*	*6.4*	*7.3*	*-.4*	*-1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*272.5*	*272.4*	*254.6*	*.1*	*17.9*
MANUFACTURING	*23.9*	*23.3*	*25.2*	*.6*	*-1.3*
Durable Goods	*15.5*	*14.8*	*15.7*	*.7*	*-.2*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*9.0*	*9.1*	*9.7*	*-.1*	*-.7*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.7*	*2.9*	*3.3*	*.8*	*.4*
Other Durable Goods	*2.8*	*2.8*	*2.7*	*0*	*.1*
Nondurable Goods	*8.4*	*8.5*	*9.5*	*-.1*	*-1.1*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.7*	*3.7*	*4.6*	*0*	*-.9*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.0*	*2.0*	*2.1*	*0*	*-.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.3*	*1.3*	*1.3*	*0*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.4*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*-.1*	*-.1*
MINING	*5.7*	*5.7*	*5.8*	*0*	*-.1*
10 Metal Mining	*1.9*	*1.9*	*2.4*	*0*	*-.5*
11 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*0*	*0*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*2.3*	*2.3*	*1.9*	*0*	*.4*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	16.1	16.4	15.5	-.3	.6
15 General Building Contractors	5.5	5.5	5.2	0	.3
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.5	4.8	4.6	-.3	-.1
17 Special Trade Contractors	6.1	6.1	5.7	0	.4
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	20.3	20.4	19.4	-.1	.9
40 Railroad Transportation	6.4	6.4	6.4	0	0
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.0	6.0	5.6	0	.4
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	7.9	8.0	7.4	-.1	.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	70.1	69.8	64.1	.3	6.0
Wholesale Trade	17.1	17.3	15.4	-.2	1.7
Retail Trade	53.0	52.5	48.7	.5	4.3
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.8	8.4	7.4	.4	1.4
54 Food Stores	6.8	6.7	6.6	.1	.2
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.1	8.1	8.5	0	-.4
58 Eating and Drinking Places	20.4	20.4	17.1	0	3.3
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	8.9	8.9	9.1	0	-.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	11.6	11.6	10.7	0	.9
SERVICES	52.1	52.4	48.1	-.3	4.0
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	8.3	8.3	6.0	0	2.3
72 Personal Services	2.4	2.5	2.4	-.1	0
80 Medical and other Health Services	16.3	16.3	15.2	0	1.1
Other Services	25.1	25.3	24.5	-.2	.6
GOVERNMENT	72.7	72.9	65.8	-.1	6.9
91 Federal Government	14.9	14.8	13.3	.1	1.6
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.9	8.9	9.1	0	-.2
93 Other State Government	11.3	11.6	10.2	-.3	1.1
94 Local Education	23.7	23.7	21.6	0	2.1
95 Other Local Government	13.9	13.8	11.6	.1	2.3

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1970 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

OCTOBER 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	33.8	33.8	32.4	0	1.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.8	31.9	30.2	-.1	1.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.3	1.5	1.3	-.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.0	1.9	2.2	.1	-.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.8*	*5.7*	*6.7*	*.1*	*-.9*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.6*	*6.7*	*7.6*	*-.1*	*-1.0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*28.8*	*29.1*	*26.9*	*-.3*	*1.9*
Manufacturing	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.7*	*0*	*-.1*
Contract Construction	*1.9*	*1.9*	*2.0*	*0*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*0*	*.2*
Trade	*8.4*	*8.6*	*8.2*	*-.2*	*.2*
Wholesale Trade	*2.2*	*2.3*	*2.2*	*-.1*	*0*
Retail Trade	*6.2*	*6.3*	*6.0*	*-.1*	*.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.8*	*1.7*	*1.6*	*.1*	*.2*
Services and Mining	*7.0*	*7.1*	*5.7*	*-.1*	*1.3*
Government	*6.1*	*6.2*	*5.9*	*-.1*	*.2*
Federal Government	*2.1*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*-.1*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*4.0*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*0*	*.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1970 Benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

OCTOBER 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	52.1	52.4	49.7	-.3	2.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	50.1	50.4	47.4	-.3	2.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.5	1.8	1.5	-.3	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.0	2.0	2.3	0	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*3.9*	*3.9*	*4.7*	*0*	*-.8*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.7*	*4.8*	*5.7*	*-.1*	*-1.0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*44.1*	*44.1*	*41.1*	*0*	*3.0*
Manufacturing	*3.4*	*3.5*	*4.0*	*-.1*	*-.6*
Contract Construction	*2.8*	*2.7*	*2.3*	*.1*	*.5*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.3*	*3.3*	*3.1*	*0*	*.2*
Trade	*15.8*	*15.8*	*14.0*	*0*	*1.8*
Wholesale Trade	*6.3*	*6.3*	*5.1*	*0*	*1.2*
Retail Trade	*9.5*	*9.5*	*8.9*	*0*	*.6*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*8.1*	*8.0*	*7.7*	*.1*	*.4*
Government	*8.7*	*8.8*	*8.1*	*-.1*	*.6*
Federal Government	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*0*	*.2*
State and Local Government	*6.7*	*6.8*	*6.3*	*-.1*	*.4*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Aug. 1977	Sep. 1977	Oct. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sep. 1977	Oct. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sep. 1977	Oct. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sep. 1977	Oct. 1977
STATEWIDE	377.8	361.4	355.6	358.4	343.1	337.9	19.4	18.3	17.7	5.1	5.1	5.0
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.9	33.8	33.8	32.0	31.9	31.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	5.6	5.7	5.8
BILLINGS SMSA	51.6	52.4	52.1	49.6	50.4	50.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.9	3.9	3.9
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	292.3	275.2	269.7	276.8	260.8	256.0	15.5	14.4	13.7	5.3	5.2	5.1
ANACONDA-BUTTE	37.0	36.4	34.7	34.5	34.2	32.6	2.5	2.2	2.1	6.8	6.0	6.0
BOZEMAN	26.4	25.8	25.2	25.4	24.9	24.2	1.0	.9	1.0	3.6	3.4	3.8
GLASGOW	19.9	18.6	17.2	18.9	17.8	16.5	1.0	.8	.7	5.0	4.3	4.2
GLENDIVE	16.3	15.7	15.1	15.8	15.3	14.8	.5	.4	.3	2.8	2.3	2.1
HARDIN-RED LODGE	14.0	13.1	12.0	13.4	12.5	11.5	.6	.6	.5	4.6	4.3	4.6
HAVRE	14.7	14.1	13.5	14.1	13.6	13.0	.6	.5	.5	4.2	3.8	3.4
HELENA	27.0	27.2	26.5	25.6	25.9	25.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	5.1	4.8	4.5
KALISPELL	34.9	34.0	33.1	32.2	31.6	30.5	2.7	2.4	2.6	7.6	7.0	7.8
LEWISTOWN	12.6	11.6	11.2	12.2	11.3	10.8	.4	.3	.4	3.5	3.0	3.8
MILES CITY	17.0	15.9	15.6	16.4	15.4	15.1	.6	.5	.5	3.5	3.3	3.4
MISSOULA	48.5	48.3	47.7	45.3	45.3	44.7	3.2	3.0	3.0	6.6	6.2	6.2
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.6	19.3	17.8	19.6	18.4	16.9	1.0	.9	.9	4.8	4.5	5.0

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	Net Change 1976-1977	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	Net Change 1976-1977
STATEWIDE	355.6	337.2	5.5	337.9	316.3	6.8	17.7	20.9	-3.2	5.0	6.2	-1.2
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.8	32.4	4.3	31.8	30.2	5.3	2.0	2.2	-.2	5.8	6.7	-.9
BILLINGS SMSA	52.1	49.7	4.8	50.1	47.4	5.7	2.0	2.3	-.3	3.9	4.7	-.8
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	269.7	255.1	5.7	256.0	238.7	7.2	13.7	16.4	-2.7	5.1	6.4	-1.3
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.7	34.7	.0	32.6	31.8	2.5	2.1	2.9	-.8	6.0	8.4	-2.4
BOZEMAN	25.2	25.1	.4	24.2	23.7	2.1	1.0	1.4	-.4	3.8	5.5	-1.7
GLASGOW	17.2	16.1	6.8	16.5	15.3	7.8	.7	.8	-.1	4.2	5.1	-.9
GLENDIVE	15.1	13.7	10.2	14.8	13.3	11.3	.3	.4	-.1	2.1	2.9	-.8
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.0	11.2	7.1	11.5	10.6	8.5	.5	.6	-.1	4.6	5.2	-.6
HAVRE	13.5	12.4	8.9	13.0	11.7	11.1	.5	.7	-.2	3.4	5.4	-2.0
HELENA	26.5	24.0	10.4	25.3	22.7	11.5	1.2	1.3	-.1	4.5	5.4	-.9
KALISPELL	33.1	33.1	.0	30.5	30.0	1.7	2.6	3.1	-.5	7.8	9.3	-1.5
LEWISTOWN	11.2	10.7	4.7	10.8	10.3	4.9	.4	.4	0	3.8	4.1	-.3
MILES CITY	15.6	14.3	9.1	15.1	13.7	10.2	.5	.6	-.1	3.4	4.0	-.6
MISSOULA	47.7	43.3	10.2	44.7	39.9	12.0	3.0	3.4	-.4	6.2	7.9	-1.7
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.8	16.4	8.5	16.9	15.6	8.3	.9	.8	.1	5.0	5.0	0

1/ *A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.*
2/ *Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.*

Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY
OCTOBER 1977

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	355581	337849	17732	5.0
CASCADE	33790	31831	1959	5.8
YELLOWSTONE	52167	50132	2035	3.9
BEAVERHEAD	4547	4390	157	3.5
BIG HORN	4686	4418	268	5.7
BLAINE	3061	2940	121	4.0
BROADWATER	1468	1410	58	4.0
CARBON	3340	3181	159	4.8
CARTER	955	935	20	2.1
CHOTEAU	3224	3133	91	2.8
CUSTER	5903	5730	173	2.9
DANIELS	1483	1460	23	1.6
DAWSON	5617	5456	159	2.8
DEER LODGE	6494	6063	431	6.6
FALLON	2166	2124	42	1.9
FERGUS	5733	5527	206	3.6
FLATHEAD	19562	18045	1517	7.8
GALLATIN	18813	18165	648	3.4
GARFIELD	892	877	15	1.7
GLACIER	5318	4936	380	7.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	463	441	22	4.8
GRANITE	1085	1022	63	5.8
HILL	9243	8927	316	3.4
JEFFERSON	2794	2629	165	5.9
JUDITH BASIN	1321	1278	43	3.3
LAKE	6746	6339	407	6.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	22227	21260	967	4.4
LIBERTY	1173	1146	27	2.3
LINCOLN	6798	6124	674	9.9
MC CONE	1559	1527	32	2.1
MADISON	2553	2453	100	3.9
MEAGHER	858	837	21	2.4
MINERAL	1516	1416	100	6.6
MISSOULA	34764	32793	1971	5.7
MUSSELSHELL	1958	1853	105	5.4
PARK	5511	5213	298	5.4
PETROLEUM	357	353	4	1.1
PHILLIPS	2637	2534	103	3.9
PONDERA	3721	3498	223	6.0
POWDER RIVER	1137	1114	23	2.0
POWELL	3279	3139	140	4.3
PRAIRIE	1035	1023	12	1.2
RAVALLI	6726	6213	513	7.6
RICHLAND	5387	5290	97	1.8
ROOSEVELT	5809	5581	228	3.9
ROSEBUD	4942	4678	264	5.3
SANDERS	4658	4268	390	8.4
SHERIDAN	2510	2471	39	1.6
SILVER BOW	16781	15585	1196	7.1
STILLWATER	2481	2405	76	3.1
SWEET GRASS	1523	1477	46	3.0
TETON	2624	2521	103	3.9
TOOLE	2894	2798	96	3.4
TREASURE	512	496	16	3.1
VALLEY	4763	4433	330	6.9
WHEATLAND	1380	1332	48	3.5
WIBAUX	637	627	10	1.6

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

OCTOBER 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	Oct. 1977[1]	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						October 1977		September 1977	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	113.2	114.2	103.6	-1.0	9.6	272.5	*41.5*	272.4	*41.9*
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.3	0	-.3	23.9	*12.6*	23.3	*12.9*
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	5.7	*5.3*	5.7	*5.3*
Contract Construction	1.2	1.3	1.0	-.1	.2	16.1	*7.5*	16.4	*7.9*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.7	3.7	3.5	0	.2	20.3	*18.2*	20.4	*18.1*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.1	30.6	27.4	-.5	2.7	70.1	*42.9*	69.8	*43.8*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.6	7.6	6.9	0	.7	11.6	*65.5*	11.6	*65.5*
Services	32.9	33.1	30.1	-.2	2.8	52.1	*63.1*	52.4	*63.2*
Government[2]	34.4	34.6	31.1	-.2	3.3	72.7	*47.3*	72.8	*47.5*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.3	95.3	96.4	98.5	100.1	101.3	102.1	103.0	103.6	103.6	104.1	104.1	100.7
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	1.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	.8	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.5	23.2	24.0	25.4	26.4	27.1	28.4	28.3	28.5	27.4	27.5	27.7	26.4
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Services	27.7	27.9	28.1	28.5	28.7	29.6	30.0	30.5	30.4	30.1	30.2	30.1	29.3
Government1/	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.8	29.4	31.1	31.6	31.8	30.4

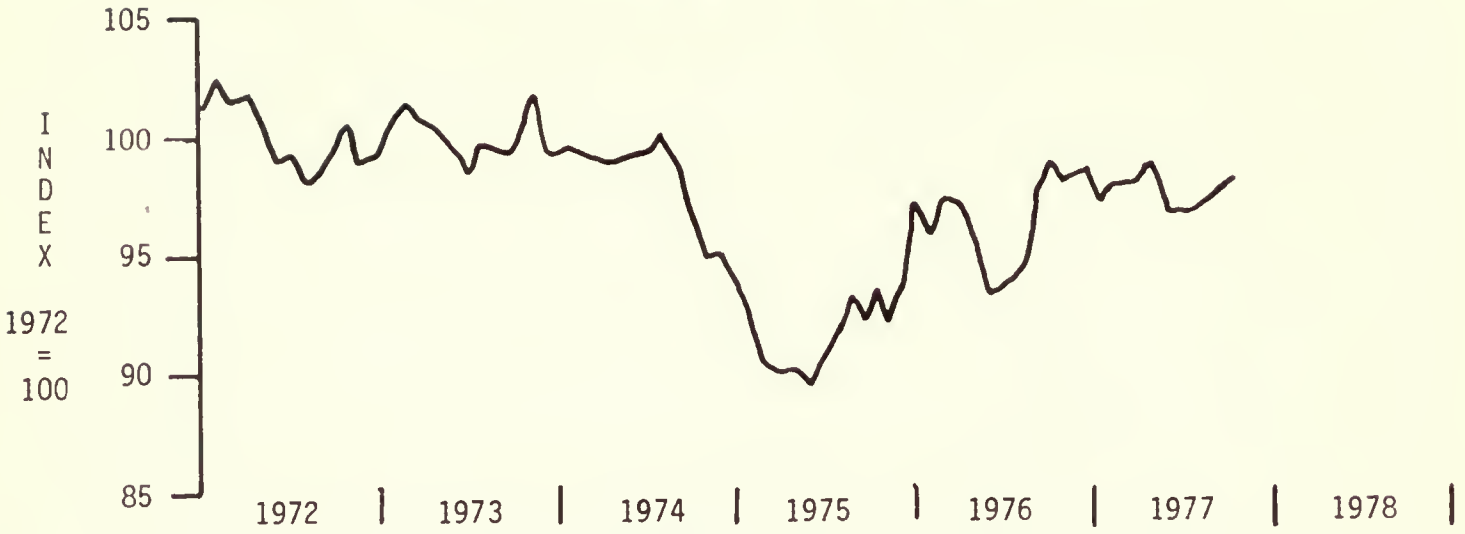
1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.2
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	30.1
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.9
Government1/	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1976 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS* 8**



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

1976	
January	97.2
February	95.7
March	97.6
April	96.9
May	95.0
June	93.3
July	93.9
August	94.8
September	98.1
October	99.3
November	98.3
December	98.8
1977	
January	97.2
February	98.3
March	98.3
April	99.2
May	97.3
June	97.6
July	98.0
August	98.6
September	
October	
November	
December	

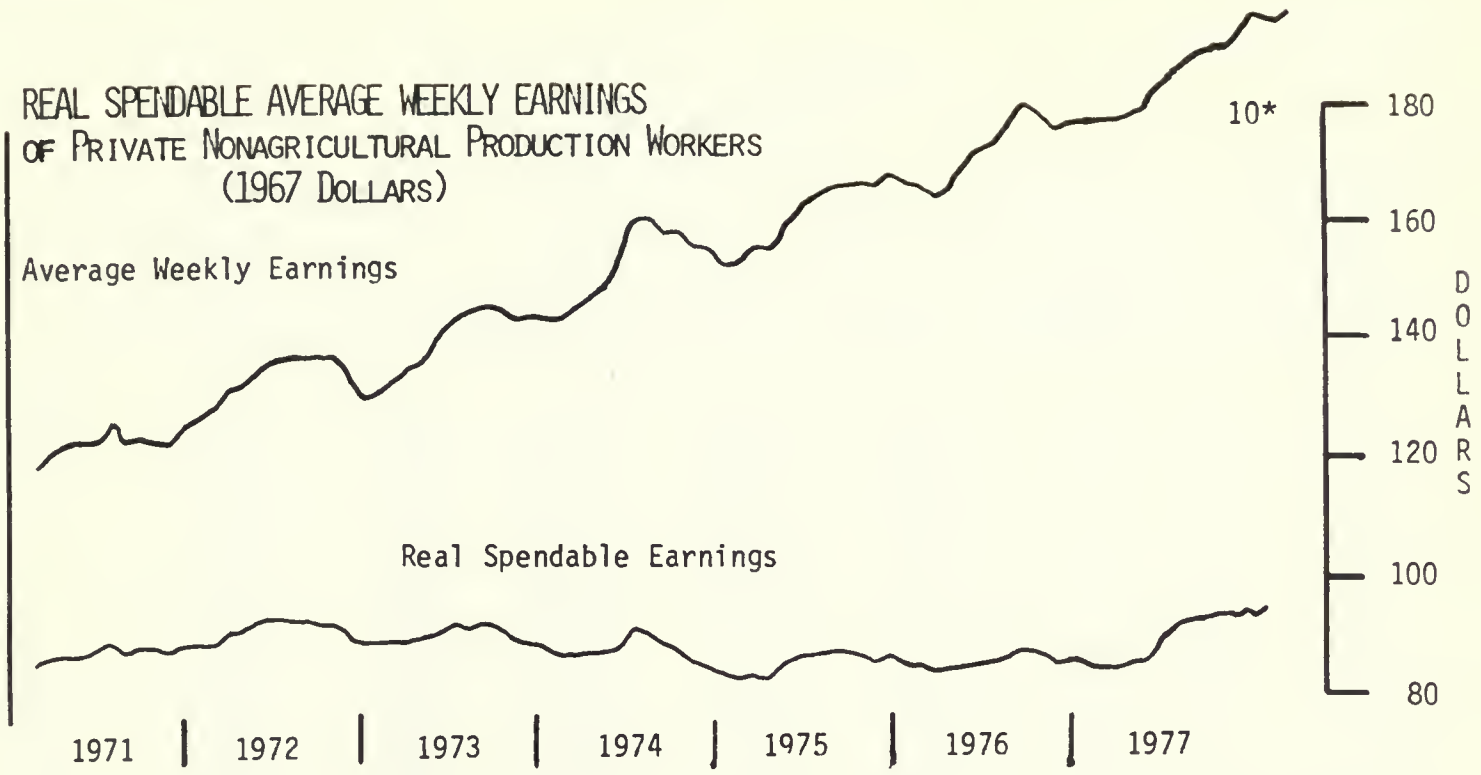
MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The Composite Index continued its upward movement in August. The only negative components in the Index were Manufacturing Employment and Average Weekly Initial Claims for unemployment benefits. Average Weekly Hours and Accessions provided the main thrust for improvements this month.

September's reading will maintain the recent positive trend - all preliminary data indicate further advancement for the Index.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$200.07	$197.89	$177.79
Taxes Withheld	29.85	29.21	27.17
Spendable Earnings	170.23	168.67	150.62
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	77.96	777.00	63.72
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	92.27	91.67	86.90

	Average Weekly Earnings[1/]	Real Spendable Earnings[2/]
1976		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
1977		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	174.94	83.40
Apr.	178.69	84.21
May	184.79	86.12
June	185.26	87.77
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	200.07p	92.27p
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Real wages resumed an improving posture during October as average weekly earnings again climbed to over $200.

Historically, wages have declined during the winter months in Montana, yet, in view of the steady performance of wage levels recently, increases are quite possible.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary.*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

TABLE XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1975								
January	327.0	303.9	265.6	38.3	23.1	7.1	8.2	*
February	328.0	300.9	263.3	37.6	27.1	8.2	8.2	.1
March	326.8	301.0	265.9	35.1	25.8	7.9	8.7	.3
April	323.8	296.1	263.3	32.8	27.7	7.9	8.9	.2
May	326.8	300.0	266.1	33.9	26.8	7.9	9.2	.1
June	327.4	300.2	268.0	32.2	27.2	8.3	8.6	.1
July	326.8	300.5	268.6	31.9	26.3	8.1	8.4	.2
August	330.0	303.4	270.9	32.5	26.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	332.4	305.6	272.5	33.1	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	335.3	307.3	272.6	34.7	28.0	8.4	8.6	.3
November	340.2	312.6	276.0	36.6	27.6	8.1	8.3	.2
December	340.8	311.2	272.6	38.6	29.6	8.7	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.4	303.5	268.7	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	335.4	308.3	275.8	32.5	27.1	8.1	7.8	*
February	336.6	310.1	276.7	33.4	26.5	7.9	7.6	*
March	336.0	308.9	275.9	33.0	27.1	8.1	7.5	*
April	337.2	311.9	276.8	35.1	25.3	7.5	7.5	*
May	335.5	309.9	276.8	33.1	25.6	7.6	7.3	*
June	332.0	305.7	272.6	33.1	26.3	7.9	7.5	.1
July	339.0	312.0	277.5	34.5	27.0	8.0	7.8	.1
August	340.5	311.6	277.9	33.7	28.9	8.5	7.9	.1
September	339.1	313.1	280.3	32.8	26.0	7.7	7.8	.1
October	339.6	314.8	281.8	33.0	24.8	7.3	7.9	.1
November	341.5	317.4	284.3	33.1	24.1	7.1	8.1	.1
December	339.4	315.2	281.5	33.7	24.2	7.1	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	349.6	323.4	289.2	34.2	26.2	7.5	7.3	.1
February	351.2	326.1	291.0	35.1	25.1	7.1	7.5	.1
March	348.7	325.1	290.2	34.9	23.6	6.8	7.3	.1
April	349.5	326.2	288.9	37.3	23.3	6.7	7.0	.1
May	348.5	325.3	290.4	34.9	23.2	6.7	6.9	.1
June	343.7	323.4	288.4	35.0	20.3	5.9	7.1	.2
July	355.6	331.2	295.0	36.2	24.4	6.9	6.9	3.3
August	357.2	334.1	298.9	35.2	23.1	6.5	7.1	.2
September	353.8	331.0	297.3	33.7	22.8	6.4	6.9	.1
October	357.9	336.3	302.9	33.4	21.6	6.0	7.0	.5
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: *Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.*

RESIDENCE DATA

TABLE XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	32.6	30.4	28.9	1.5	2.2	6.6	7.1	*
February	32.6	29.9	28.4	1.5	2.7	8.4	8.2	*
March	32.6	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.9	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	7.9	.1
May	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	7.9	7.9	*
June	32.1	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.4	7.5	8.3	*
July	32.3	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.6	8.1	8.1	*
August	32.6	30.0	28.7	1.3	2.6	8.0	8.0	*
September	32.8	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
October	32.9	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.9	8.9	8.4	*
November	33.4	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.8	8.2	8.1	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.7	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.1	8.1	*
1976								
January	32.1	29.4	28.1	1.3	2.7	8.5	8.1	*
February	32.2	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.7	8.3	7.9	*
March	32.1	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.1	*
April	31.8	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.7	8.4	7.5	*
May	31.7	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.5	7.8	7.6	*
June	32.0	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.8	8.8	7.9	*
July	32.2	29.4	28.0	1.4	2.8	8.6	8.0	*
August	31.9	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.8	8.7	8.5	*
September	31.8	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.5	7.7	7.7	*
October	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.6	7.3	*
November	32.5	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.4	7.5	7.1	*
December	32.6	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.3	7.0	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	8.1	7.7	*
1977								
January	33.7	31.1	29.7	1.4	2.6	7.6	7.5	*
February	33.3	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
March	33.2	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.2	6.5	6.8	*
April	32.8	30.6	29.1	1.5	2.2	6.6	6.7	*
May	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.7	*
June	32.6	30.8	29.4	1.4	1.8	5.5	5.9	*
July	32.9	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.9	.8
August	32.7	30.7	29.3	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.5	*
September	33.3	31.1	29.8	1.3	2.2	6.7	6.4	*
October	33.7	31.5	30.2	1.3	2.2	6.6	6.1	.4
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

RESIDENCE DATA

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.1	7.1	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.1	1.7	3.3	7.1	8.2	*
March	47.0	43.8	42.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	7.9	.1
April	47.5	43.9	42.4	1.5	3.6	7.6	7.9	*
May	47.2	44.1	42.5	1.6	3.1	6.5	7.9	*
June	47.2	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.0	6.4	8.3	*
July	47.7	44.6	43.2	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.1	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.0	*
September	48.3	45.0	43.5	1.5	3.3	6.8	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.3	6.8	8.4	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.1	*
December	48.5	45.4	43.7	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	46.7	43.6	42.1	1.5	3.1	6.7	8.1	*
February	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	7.9	*
March	47.5	44.5	43.0	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.1	*
April	47.7	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.5	*
May	48.2	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.6	*
June	47.7	44.6	43.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	7.9	*
July	47.7	44.7	43.2	1.5	3.0	6.2	8.0	*
August	47.9	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.0	6.3	8.5	*
September	48.6	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.8	5.8	7.7	*
October	49.4	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.3	*
November	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.5	7.1	*
December	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.6	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	51.4	48.2	46.7	1.5	3.2	6.2	7.5	*
February	52.3	49.2	47.6	1.6	3.1	5.9	7.1	*
March	51.9	49.3	47.7	1.6	2.6	5.0	6.8	*
April	51.0	48.3	46.6	1.7	2.7	5.3	6.7	*
May	50.3	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.7	5.4	6.7	*
June	50.2	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.0	4.0	5.9	*
July	50.5	48.0	46.4	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.9	.1
August	50.5	48.3	46.6	1.7	2.2	4.3	6.5	.1
September	52.2	49.7	48.1	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.4	.1
October	51.8	49.3	47.8	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.1	.1
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

OCTOBER 1977

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earning		
	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Oct. 1976
TOTAL PRIVATE	$200.07	$197.89	$177.79	35.1	35.4	35.7	$5.70	$5.59	$4.98
MANUFACTURING	306.00	289.08	258.92	42.5	42.7	42.1	7.20	6.77	6.15
Durable Goods	322.64	297.79	252.78	43.6	43.6	42.7	7.40	6.83	5.92
Primary Metal Industries	289.52	279.82	287.52	36.1	35.6	40.1	8.02	7.86	7.17
Nondurable Goods	265.73	268.92	241.72	39.9	40.5	40.9	6.66	6.64	5.91
Food and Kindred Products	233.74	248.51	229.82	40.3	42.7	43.2	5.80	5.82	5.32
MINING	370.02	358.90	317.84	42.0	41.3	43.9	8.81	8.69	7.24
Metal Mining	415.64	392.96	312.75	38.7	38.3	41.7	10.74	10.26	7.50
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	406.29	416.49	350.17	37.9	38.6	41.1	10.72	10.79	8.52
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	314.39	311.96	273.77	42.2	42.1	40.8	7.45	7.41	6.71
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	277.55	270.82	249.02	41.8	41.6	40.1	6.64	6.51	6.21
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	152.54	150.33	134.29	33.6	34.4	34.7	4.54	4.37	3.87
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	134.31	134.30	124.91	37.0	37.1	36.1	3.63	3.62	3.46
SERVICES	114.86	118.59	108.54	29.5	29.5	29.9	4.03	4.02	3.68

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

SEPTEMBER 1977

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976
MANUFACTURING	4.8	4.4	5.4	4.3	4.0	5.0	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.6	2.7	3.3	0.6	0.5	0.4
Durable Goods	3.6	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.2	5.9	5.3	4.5	3.8	2.6	3.4	0.5	0.7	0.4
Primary Metal Industries	3.1	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.8	0.9	6.4	6.6	3.8	3.2	1.6	2.9	1.2	3.0	0.5
Nondurable Goods	6.9	5.0	8.6	6.0	4.6	8.2	4.7	3.6	4.3	3.2	2.9	3.3	0.7	0.1	0.4
MINING	2.1	3.2	5.3	1.6	2.3	2.3	8.3	1.5	2.1	6.4	1.1	0.6	1.3	0.2	0.9
Metal Mining	1.5	2.2	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	4.3	0.9	2.0	0.3	0.2	0.5	2.6	0.1	0.7

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	Year to Date 1977	Year to Date 1976
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	13	28	222	250
MINING	10	12	115	96
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	49	62	734	464
MANUFACTURING	8	13	174	127
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	10	13	146	95
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	78	98	1030	635
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	40	26	375	237
SERVICES	118	129	1154	879
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	2	3	70	21
STATE TOTAL	328	384	4020	2804

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	328	384	4,020	2,804
GREAT FALLS SMSA	26	35	435	248
BILLINGS SMSA	76	75	649	475
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	20	23	276	214
Beaverhead	1	1	35	27
Deer Lodge	0	1	29	27
Granite	1	0	7	6
Madison	2	4	29	22
Powell	0	4	18	20
Silver Bow	16	13	158	112
BOZEMAN LMA	31	36	373	236
Gallatin	28	31	298	196
Meagher	0	0	5	6
Park	3	5	70	34
GLASGOW LMA	5	13	109	114
Daniels	0	5	10	26
Phillips	0	0	16	5
Roosevelt	4	1	25	31
Sheridan	0	1	20	20
Valley	1	6	38	32
GLENDIVE LMA	15	15	142	87
Dawson	4	3	40	23
Garfield	1	1	7	6
McCone	3	3	12	12
Prairie	2	0	15	7
Richland	5	8	66	38
Wibaux	0	0	2	1
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	5	7	88	76
Big Horn	1	1	29	18
Carbon	2	4	30	24
Stillwater	1	1	20	17
Sweet Grass	1	1	9	17

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976	1977	1976
HAVRE LMA	9	7	129	96
Blaine	1	1	17	13
Hill	7	6	88	69
Liberty	1	0	24	14
HELENA LMA	24	19	314	190
Broadwater	1	4	18	12
Jefferson	1	1	18	10
Lewis and Clark	22	14	278	168
KALISPELL LMA	38	46	490	345
Flathead	25	27	334	225
Lake	6	8	87	74
Lincoln	7	11	69	46
LEWISTOWN LMA	7	8	94	54
Fergus	4	5	65	32
Golden Valley	0	0	3	4
Judith Basin	1	0	7	1
Musselshell	1	1	15	12
Petroleum	0	0	0	2
Wheatland	1	2	4	3
MILES CITY LMA	11	23	119	132
Carter	0	1	7	6
Custer	7	11	67	65
Fallon	1	1	10	15
Powder River	0	1	4	12
Rosebud	2	9	26	31
Treasure	1	0	5	3
MISSOULA LMA	53	52	644	498
Mineral	1	2	13	14
Missoula	49	34	489	299
Ravalli	2	8	99	49
Sanders	1	8	43	46
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	8	25	158	129
Chouteau	2	2	14	18
Glacier	1	12	35	35
Pondera	1	6	43	31
Teton	0	1	13	25
Toole	4	4	53	20

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

OCTOBER 1977 INTRASTATE

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	72	5,741.00
BIG HORN	184	14,166.00
BLAINE	98	6,779.00
BROADWATER	56	4,007.00
CARBON	144	9,926.00
CARTER	14	1,274.00
CASCADE	1,937	139,080.00
CHOUTEAU	54	4,286.00
CUSTER	116	9,002.00
DANIELS	20	1,408.00
DAWSON	70	5,887.00
DEER LODGE	650	49,336.00
FALLON	10	556.00
FERGUS	113	8,898.30
FLATHEAD	1,332	95,880.00
GALLATIN	581	41,909.00
GARFIELD	7	643.00
GLACIER	296	21,075.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	10	909.00
GRANITE	27	1,614.00
HILL	323	24,020.00
JEFFERSON	238	19,424.00
JUDITH BASIN	10	687.00
LAKE	396	27,056.00
LEWIS & CLARK	1,070	83,132.00
LIBERTY	8	347.00
LINCOLN	550	36,258.00
MADISON	48	3,484.00
MCCONE	19	1,444.00
MEAGHER	23	1,436.00
MINERAL	125	9,572.00
MISSOULA	2,189	161,399.00
MUSSELSHELL	100	8,062.00
PARK	231	15,561.00
PETROLEUM	7	74.00
PHILLIPS	49	3,383.00
PONDERA	104	7,188.00
POWDER RIVER	13	1,032.00
POWELL	161	12,037.00
PRAIRIE	15	1,158.00
RAVALLI	424	30,437.26
RICHLAND	41	2,287.00
ROOSEVELT	163	9,698.00
ROSEBUD	221	18,456.00
SANDERS	402	32,877.00
SHERIDAN	13	634.00
SILVER BOW	1,688	121,133.84
STILLWATER	68	5,108.00
SWEETGRASS	47	3,248.00
TETON	89	7,232.00
TOOLE	80	5,757.00
TREASURE	17	1,450.00
VALLEY	455	36,019.00
WHEATLAND	23	2,547.00
WIBAUX	1	72.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,079	163,376.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	17,281	1,279,462.40
INTERSTATE	1,614	206,989.28
TOTAL	18,895	1,486,451.68

TABLE XX CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

January thru October 1977 Intrastate

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,867	133,130.00
BIG HORN	3,592	267,407.00
BLAINE	1,941	133,279.00
BROADWATER	748	53,495.00
CARBON	2,541	186,788.00
CARTER	218	16,134.00
CASCADE	27,673	1,974,917.50
CHOUTEAU	1,104	76,119.00
CUSTER	3,796	302,393.00
DANIELS	383	28,944.00
DAWSON	2,757	201,161.00
DEER LODGE	8,563	653,984.00
FALLON	364	29,090.00
FERGUS	4,167	309,607.30
FLATHEAD	23,590	1,730,488.99
GALLATIN	12,333	912,204.00
GARFIELD	236	19,331.00
GLACIER	5,886	425,317.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	229	15,109.00
GRANITE	1,573	118,485.00
HILL	5,088	371,973.00
JEFFERSON	3,311	261,257.40
JUDITH BASIN	318	24,206.00
LAKE	7,180	492,053.00
LEWIS & CLARK	15,463	1,189,007.97
LIBERTY	237	15,763.00
LINCOLN	11,290	832,148.00
MADISON	1,145	75,331.00
MCCONE	412	28,913.00
MEAGHER	716	54,876.00
MINERAL	2,767	202,656.68
MISSOULA	32,268	2,307,398.50
MUSSELSHELL	2,481	188,749.00
PARK	4,797	328,316.14
PETROLEUM	48	3,080.00
PHILLIPS	1,458	99,180.00
PONDERA	1,743	128,144.00
POWDER RIVER	263	23,439.00
POWELL	3,274	257,272.00
PRAIRIE	522	43,081.00
RAVALLI	8,045	555,799.94
RICHLAND	1,864	137,435.00
ROOSEVELT	3,059	200,247.00
ROSEBUD	4,098	333,772.00
SANDERS	4,344	315,845.00
SHERIDAN	664	46,335.00
SILVER BOW	28,006	2,064,381.04
STILLWATER	1,368	109,339.00
SWEETGRASS	495	37,430.00
TETON	1,441	105,325.50
TOOLE	1,781	137,952.00
TREASURE	352	28,114.00
VALLEY	6,027	442,884.00
WHEATLAND	385	32,626.00
WIBAUX	282	17,069.00
YELLOWSTONE	36,667	2,848,029.79
TOTAL FOR STATE	297,220	21,946,812.75
INTERSTATE	21,377	2,174,580.20
TOTAL	318,597	24,121,392.95

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1977	1976	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	38,206	39,175	-969	*-2.5*
Continued Claims[1/]	359,940	393,038	-33,098	*-8.4*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	318,597	334,048	-15,451	*-4.6*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$24,121,393	$21,810,051	$2,311,342	*10.6*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$79.33	$70.04	$ 9.29	*13.3*

MONTHLY

	October 1977	September 1977	October 1976	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	3,510	2,488	3,329	181	*5.4*
Continued Claims[1/]	25,725	29,712	23,869	1,856	*7.8*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	18,895	23,005	19,363	-468	*-2.4*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$1,486,452	$1,697,177	$1,319,427	$167,025	*12.7*
Avg. Wkly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$85.85	$78.90	$69.51	$16.34	*23.5*
Trust Fund Balance	-$1,236,085*	-$1,528,746*	$1,634,548**	-$2,870,633	*-175.6*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes loans from Federal Government, which amount to $9,284,089.*
*** Excludes loans from Federal Government, which amount to $1,366,089.*

As expected, the initial claims total for October shows a sizeable increase from September and a slight increase from October of a year ago. At the same time, continued claims show a decrease from September but an increase over October of a year ago, and will begin an upward trend for the next few months.

Benefit payments decreased from last year and last month, while the amount of benefits paid shows only a decrease from last month. However, due to seasonality, these two statistics will begin to spiral upwards.

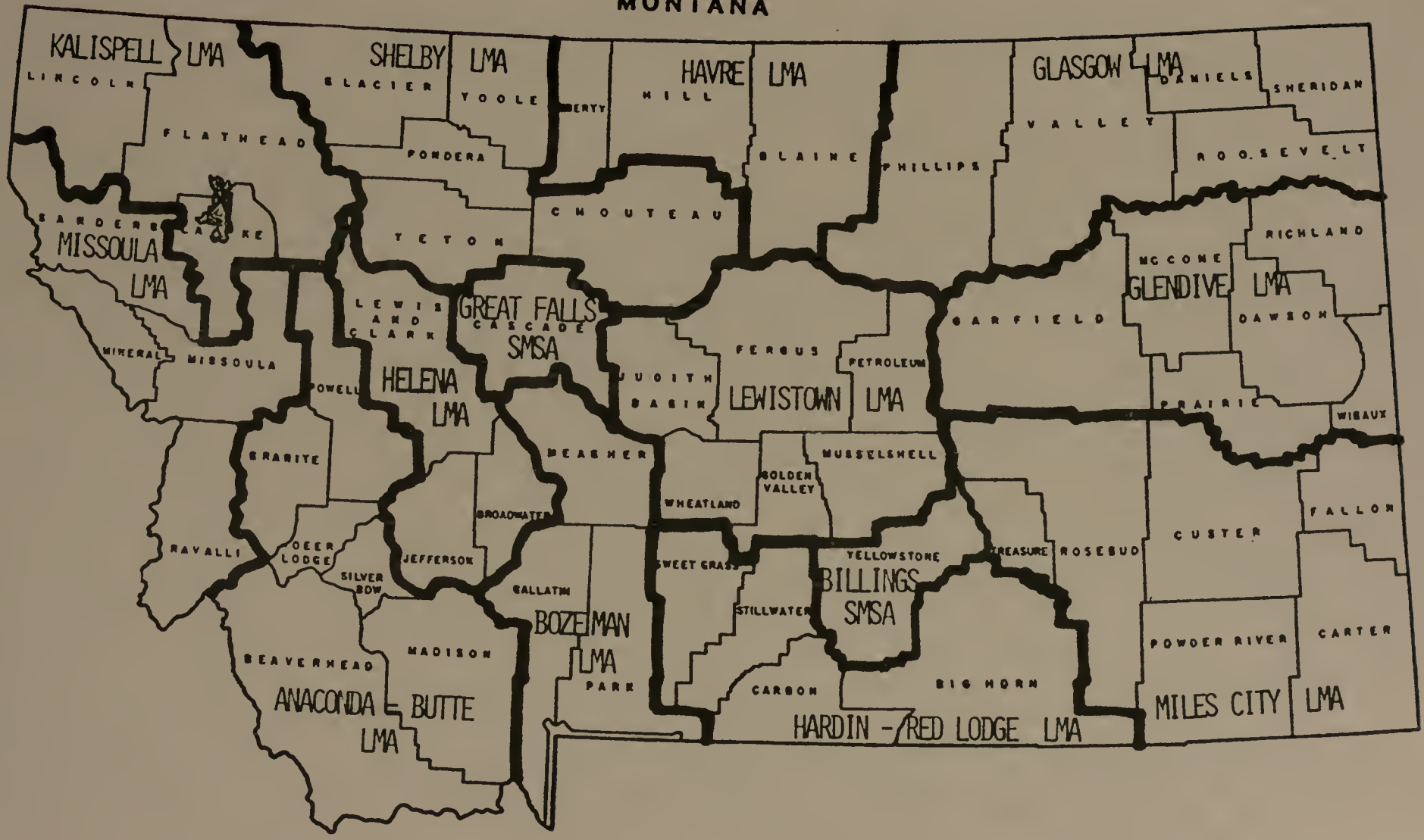
The trust fund balance, although negative, did show a slight recovery from September and that should continue through the next month with the majority of the third quarter collections being received at that time.

Beginning with this month, a new statistic has been added to the series, namely, the average weekly benefit amount. This figure gives some insight as to why the number of benefit payments is less this year than last, but the amount of benefits paid is greater.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.